

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01157 061351Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 INR-10 VO-05 CA-01 L-03

SS-15 H-01 EUR-12 /076 W

-----017580 061423Z /42

P R 061000Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4397

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

CONFIDENTIAL MBABANE 1157

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES DETAINED IN SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1150

1. WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT, UNHCR REP SABITI REPORTED TO
ME AFTER HIS APRIL 6 MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ZONKE KHUMALO THAT DPM HAD BEEN ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT
AND HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DAY'S TALK WITH
ME OR EVEN MENTIONED SUBJECT OF MOZAMBICANS. SABITI THINKS
DPMMAY RPT MAY HAVE REFLECTED OVER THE NIGHT AND
DECIDED HE HAD GONE TOO FAR IN TALK WITH ME.

2. SABITI SAID DPM RAISED ONLY TWO TOPICS WITH HIM.
FIRST WAS A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF MPAKA REFUGEE COMPLEX. SABITI REPLIED THAT COSTS
SEEMED TO BE SPIRALING AND COULD POSSIBLY TURN OUT
TO BE DOUBLE THE AMOUNT THAT UNHCR HAD BEEN ALERTED TO
EARLIER BY DPM'S OFFICE. SABITI SAID HE UNABLE TO DO
ANYTHING ON APPEALS IN ANY EVENT UNTIL HE RECEIVED FURTHER
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GOS DOCUMENTATION.

3. SECOND SUBJECT WAS WARNING TO SABITI TO AVOID
DEALINGS WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS "BECAUSE WE
WANT TO AVOID TROUBLE IN SWAZILAND." SABITI REPLIED
(A) THAT DPM'S STAFF KNEW IT WAS NECESSARY FOR SABITI
TO CONTACT LOCAL PAC REPS TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR ADHERENTS'

ONWARD TRAVEL OUT OF SWAZILAND, AND (B) DPM'S STAFF
WAS INFORMED OF EACH SUCH CONTACT. DPM THEN DROPPED
MATTER.

4. EMBASSY VIEWS REFTEL DEVELOPMENTS AS MULTI-FACETED
ISSUE: (A) WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE
APPROPRIATELY CAN TO GET AT LEAST THE NON-MILITARY
MOZAMBICANS OUT OF JAIL, (B) WE SHOULD SEE WHETHER GOS
WILLING REVIEW MILITARY MOZAMBICAN CASES ON MAN-BY-
MAN BASIS TO GET LIBERALIZED TREATMENT FOR
AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, AND (C) WE SHOULD KEEP REMINDING
GOS THAT OUTSIDERS (INCLUDING USG IN DONOR CAPACITY) ARE
WATCHING THESE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. SABITI AGREES WITH
ME THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO A
PRESENTATION ON THIS ISSUE, AS COMPARED TO BOMBASTIC DPM,
AND COULD POSSIBLY RPT POSSIBLY BE PERSUADED TO TAKE
MILDER APPROACH ON JAILINGS. (ALTHOUGH DPM HAS REFUGEE
PORTFOLIO, PRIME MINISTER HAS POLICE, DEFENSE, AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS PORTFOLIOS)

5. I AM PREPARED MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER; WE HAD HAD LONG
AND AGREEABLE CONVERSATION ON AID MATTERS IN MORNING
OF APRIL 5. HOWEVER, BELIEVE DPM WOULD REGARD MY EARLY
APPROACH TO PRIME MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT AS PERSONAL
AFFRONT, WHICH WOULD NOT SERVE LONG-TERM USG INTERESTS.
THEREFORE BELIEVE TACTICALLY PREFERABLE FOR NEXT APPROACH
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TO BE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER FOR TOUR D'
HORIZON THAT WOULD INCLUDE THIS SUBJECT. FYI,
PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME HE WAS LEAVING ABOUT
APRIL 15 FOR TEN DAYS IN EUROPE, FIVE DAYS OF
WHICH ARE FOR MEDICAL CHECKUP ON INJURED ARM. HE
SHOULD THEREFORE BE BACK WHEN AMBASSADOR NEXT
VISITS MBABANE. END FYI.

6. UNLESS OTHERWISE INFORMED, WE WILL FOLLOW
PLAN PROPOSED PARA 5 ABOVE. BEST IMMEDIATE
SOLUTION STILL SEEMS TO BE PORTUGAL'S ADMISSION
OF JAILED REFUGEES (PARA 2 MBABANE 1032).
WACHOB

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